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RIPON NURSERY AND IMPROVEMENT CO.

(Incorporated)
J. F. STUART, President-Manager
Originator and grower of the now famous

Stuart Prune



Picture of the original Mother Tree from which
the STUART Prune originated.

Box 153

FRENCH CAMP, (San Joaquin County) CALIFORNIA

IMPORTANT TO ORCHARDIST

HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE STUART PRUNE

The STUART Prune was propagated by J. F. Stuart, near Oakdale, Stanislaus County, California. The original tree, from which all of this stock originated, is 27 years old and is still healthy and bearing a good crop of prunes. It is a seedling of the Silver prune—crossed pollen—with the Tragedy prune, taking the flavor and its color of skin from the Tragedy prune but retains its light meat, size and sweetness from the Silver. It has a free pit like the Silver and a most excellent flavor when ripe and also when dried, without cooking. It is an excellent shipper and drops from the tree when fully ripe. It has proven to be a very easy drier; drying in less time than prunes of similar size. It is very sweet and the University test of sugar is 53.5 per cent, the highest test of sugar in any known prune.

We have several acres of these prunes in bearing. They ripen earlier than the Silver and later than the Tragedy prune. A test has been made of these STUART prunes for several years and they have averaged 29 prunes to the pound when dried. It requires less lye to cut them than the French prune and they dry much more rapidly and are heavier than any known prune on the market.

IT IS A PRUNE OF ITSELF

The STUART prune is unlike any other and differs a great deal from the Imperial. (Do not be confused regarding this important point.) The STUART prune has a different flavor; has a light meat when dried, a distinct flavor and is considered and known to be superior in every way to the Imperial prune. Many orchardists are being misguided by having offered to them the Imperial prune under the false statement that it is as good as the STUART prune.

The STUART prune, from tests made, has proven itself to be an excellent bearer and one of the most profitable prunes to plant.

THE DEMAND GREATER THAN THE PRODUCTION

All orchardists, who have become acquainted with the facts, which this folder contains, have placed orders for this stock. It has caused the demand for the trees to be greater than the production. The STUART prunes are selling for 20 cents per pound, loose in bags, according to 1923 quotations. This is enough to convince you that it certainly is different than the older varieties of prunes, which are still being sold on the market.

The Ripon Nursery Company have the exclusive handling of the buds and of the growing of the STUART prune trees. Orders sent direct to us will assure you that you will get the genuine STUART trees.

Owing to the number of inquiries received and the orders placed, the Stuart Nursery Company will soon have all of its stock for the coming season sold. We will continue to fill orders up to the last minute, and also take orders for the following season's delivery.

"Every home should have a STUART prune tree in its yard."

ENDORSED BY LEADING ORCHARDISTS

We have a great number of endorsements and recommendations covering this STUART prune and these letters are from all points in the State of California. We will be glad to have you read any of these communications from the growers and correspond with them for further endorsements. We quote you letters from different points of California showing how this prune is acting according to the climatic conditions of the different localities.

Napa, Calif.,
April 14, 1922.

T. H. Thompson,
Paso Robles, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I have some STUART prunes that have been bearing for the last four or five years steadily. They have had a good crop this year. This last season I had about a

thousand pounds off of about fifteen trees. So far I don't think I have had any prunes smaller than a thirty. The ones I entered at the Napa County Fair in competition with others were nineteen to the pound and received **first prize**. These trees of mine were peach tops grafted to Stuarts, and they were six years old when worked over.

I have found that I can let them lay on the ground for a week at a time and then handle nicely. I only make two pickings. I let the ground get pretty well covered and then next time clean the trees. I have found that they are sweeter and of a better flavor than the Imperial. Altogether I have about 100 trees, all top grafts. The bulk of them I put in this winter on apricots. I have about thirty that will bear this year.

In drying I find that they are a much easier prune to dry than the Imperial. Last year we made a test of drying, using forty pounds green of Imperial and forty of STUARTS. The STUARTS dried first and dried 29% heavier than the Imperials. They come along with the Sugars, so are out of the way earlier. The test was made at the request of Mr. H. Holden and Mr. W. Butler (County Horticulture Com.) who are members of the Bud Selection Committee of Nurserymen. They wish to have the STUART prune replace the present Imperial as it resembles it very much. They class it as a yellow-meated Imperial. I can't say anything about the Roeding XX, but the Coates 14-18 is a very large prune, but that is all you can say for it. The flesh is very coarse and of poor flavor. From the way my trees have borne I should judge a person should receive at least two tons dry per acre. I have no prunes at present, but will be glad to send you a sample next season, or would be glad to have you come and see the trees at any time.

The tree loads up pretty heavy, but the wood seems to be of a tough nature. So far I have not had a single branch broken, and some were loaded so heavy that they were bent straight down.

I never advise anyone, because I find it doesn't pay, but I am enlarging on STUARTS every year. If they bear a good crop this year I will probably plant five or six acres next year. They have a wonderful bloom this year; another thing that is odd is that the birds eat all the blossoms off the Imperial prunes but I have never seen them eat a STUART. I can't say anything about pollenizing, mine are planted among peaches. Altogether, I consider the STUART one of the best large prunes grown today.

Respectfully yours,

R. E. MINAHEN.

Princeton, Calif.,

April 24, 1922.

My Dear Admirer:

As glad to hear from you as to have the prunes, which are truly a very great acquisition in fruit, especially such a coming and popular one as the prune. The prune, in commerce, now is "(an Isser), not a has been or a goin' to be."

I might write about the excellence of the Perfect Potato as a Modern Delicacy, or the delicious bouquet of

the juice of the grape, but to attempt to paint in rosy hues this prune, as you do, I cannot. Will say this. I should regard it on a parity with the "Perfect Peachblow Potato"—it has no competitor I know of when all its character is exalted.

EUGENE H. GRUBB.

Linden, California,
July 27, 1923.

Ripon Nursery Co.
Dear Sir:

I have two of your STUART prune trees which I find are good bearers and of large size. Each tree has about 400 pounds. The trees are six years old. Two years ago I dipped and sulphured a few of them and took them to the County Fair and took First Prize for Silver prunes.

Yours respectfully,
O. H. HUNT.

Ripon, Calif.,
July 18, 1923.

Mr. J. F. Stuart,
Stockton, Calif.

Dear Sir:

In regard to the STUART prune will say I have three or four different varieties and consider the STUART far superior as to size and flavor. They also dip well and dry easily with no bloaters, which are so common to other varieties. They are without doubt the coming prune.

Yours respectfully,
J. L. EVINGER.

San Jose, Calif.,
August 9, 1923.

Mr. J. F. Stuart,
Stockton, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I am very much impressed with the "STUART prune" and as far as my acquaintance with it goes, believe it has a fine future. Its superior size, flavor and appearance will surely place it in the front ranks as a high grade fruit.

Yours very truly,
GEO. C. PAYNE.

San Jose, Calif.,
August 7, 1923.

Mr. J. F. Stuart,
Stockton, Calif.

Dear Sir:

It is with much pleasure that I recommend anyone wishing to plant a prune orchard to investigate the STUART prune and not only investigate, but plant the orchard to this variety and expect a crop that will pay nearly, if not quite, twice as much as the ordinary French prune which I have been acquainted with toward forty years. Also have known the Imperial prune and the Robe De Sargent, but would prefer the STUART prune to any one of the others, having raised all of them.

Yours very truly,
F. F. BRITTON.

Morgan Hill, Calif.,
August 10, 1923.

Mr. J. F. Stuart,
Stockton, Calif.

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you that the scions taken from the Mother Tree of your STUART Prune some six years ago, have borne good crops regularly after the scions had been growing two years.

The prune grows in size and weight to compare with the Sugar prune. The prune will not sunburn as I have left it laying on the ground under the tree for a week during some of the hottest time here in the Santa Clara Valley.

The flavor of the dried "STUART" I consider superior to any prune. This year the French and Sugar prunes have cracked quite badly in this vicinity, but there is not a crack on any of the "STUARTS", and furthermore, I have never seen a cracked "STUART." With us here the "STUART" ripens about two weeks ahead of the French prune which, of course, is another good feature. The prune dries easily, taking a little less dip than the Sugar prune. If I were to plant another prune orchard it would be all or a major portion of "STUART" prunes.

Sincerely yours,
C. F. BRONNER.

Many other letters are on file in our office, which may be read by interested parties.

The Ripon Nursery and Improvement Company are growers of the finest orchard trees of various varieties. Our years of experience and satisfactory dealings with orchardists throughout the West has enabled us to establish an enviable reputation for dependable nursery stock.

All inquiries will be promptly answered and full information furnished regarding any of our stock. Address all communications to

RIPON NURSERY AND IMPROVEMENT CO.

J. F. STUART, President

Box 153, French Camp,

San Joaquin County, California

The Stuart Prune is Exhibited at the State and
All County Fairs
